

Listing of the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A textured whey protein product comprising a thermoplastic extrusion product of a composition, said composition comprising consisting essentially of about 1-80% by weight of a food grade protein and about 20-99% by weight of an edible polysaccharide, wherein the food grade protein comprises at least ~~about~~ 25% by weight of undenatured whey protein, and wherein said composition is extruded on a thermoplastic extruder and forced through an exit die.

Claim 2 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises about 15-65% by weight of the food grade protein.

Claim 3 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises about 16-48% by weight of the food grade protein.

Claim 4 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 1 wherein the food grade protein further comprises up to about 75% by weight of plant proteins, animal proteins, microbial proteins, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 4 wherein the food grade protein comprises plant proteins selected from the group consisting of wheat proteins, rice proteins, soy proteins, corn proteins, legume proteins, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 4 wherein the food grade protein comprises wheat protein.

Claims 7-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 1 wherein the food grade protein comprises at least about 50% by weight of whey protein.

Claim 14 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 1 wherein the edible polysaccharide is a member selected from the group consisting of starches, cellulose, dietary fibers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 14 wherein the edible polysaccharide is a starch selected from the group consisting of cornstarch, potato starch, rice starch, tapioca starch, bran starch, soy starch, modified variants thereof, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 15 wherein the edible polysaccharide is cornstarch.

Claim 17 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 14 wherein the edible polysaccharide is a cellulose selected from the group consisting of celluloses, modified celluloses, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 18 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 14 wherein the edible polysaccharide is a dietary fiber selected from the group consisting of maltodextrin, inulin, fructo-oligosaccharides, pectin, guar gum, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises a calcium salt.

Claim 20 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 19 wherein the calcium salt is a member selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcium chloride, calcium gluconate, calcium lactate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 21 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 20 wherein the calcium salt is calcium chloride.

Claim 22 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises a pH- adjusting agent.

Claim 23 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 1 wherein the whey protein comprises sweet whey solids.

Claim 24 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 1 wherein the whey protein comprises a whey protein concentrate.

Claim 25 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 1 wherein the whey protein comprises a whey protein isolate.

Claim 26 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 1 wherein the whey protein is a member selected from the group consisting of sweet whey solids, whey protein concentrate, whey protein isolate, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 27-55 (canceled)

Claim 56 (currently amended): A textured whey protein product comprising a thermoplastic extrusion product of a composition, said composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of about 1-80% by weight of a mixture of food grade proteins and ~~about~~ 20-99% by weight of an edible polysaccharide, wherein the mixture of food grade proteins comprises at least ~~about~~ 25% by weight of undenatured whey protein, and wherein said composition is extruded on a thermoplastic extruder and forced through an exit die.

Claim 57 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 56 wherein the composition comprises about 15-65% by weight of the mixture of food grade proteins.

Claim 58 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 56 wherein the composition comprises about 16-48% by weight of the mixture of food grade proteins.

Claim 59 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 56 wherein the mixture of food grade proteins further comprises up to about 75% by weight of plant proteins, animal proteins, microbial proteins, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 60 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 59 wherein the mixture of food grade proteins comprises plant proteins selected from the group consisting of wheat proteins, rice proteins, soy proteins, corn proteins, legume proteins, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 61 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 59 wherein the mixture of food grade proteins comprises wheat protein.

Claims 62-67 (canceled)

Claim 68 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 56 wherein the mixture of food grade proteins comprises at least about 50% by weight of whey protein.

Claim 69 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 56 wherein the edible polysaccharide is a member selected from the group consisting of starches, cellulose, dietary fibers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 70 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 69 wherein the edible polysaccharide is a starch selected from the group consisting of cornstarch, potato starch, rice starch, tapioca starch, bran starch, soy starch, modified variants thereof, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 71 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 70 wherein the edible polysaccharide is cornstarch.

Claim 72 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 69 wherein the edible polysaccharide is a cellulosic selected from the group consisting of celluloses, modified celluloses, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 73 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 69 wherein the edible polysaccharide is a dietary fiber selected from the group consisting of maltodextrin, inulin, fructo-oligosaccharides, pectin, guar gum, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 74 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 56 wherein the composition further comprises a calcium salt.

Claim 75 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 74 wherein the calcium salt is a member selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcium chloride, calcium gluconate, calcium lactate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 76 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 75 wherein the calcium salt is calcium chloride.

Claim 77 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 56 wherein the composition further comprises a pH- adjusting agent.

Claim 78 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 56 wherein the whey protein comprises sweet whey solids.

Claim 79 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 56 wherein the whey protein comprises a whey protein concentrate.

Claim 80 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 56 wherein the whey protein comprises a whey protein isolate.

Claim 81 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 56 wherein the whey protein is a member selected from the group consisting of sweet whey solids, whey protein concentrate, whey protein isolate, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 82-108 (canceled)

Claim 109 (currently amended): A textured whey protein product comprising a thermoplastic extrusion product of a composition, said composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of about 40-99% by weight of a whey protein concentrate and about 1-60% by weight of an edible polysaccharide, wherein the whey protein concentrate comprises at least about 80% by weight of protein, wherein the whey protein concentrate also comprises at least 25% by weight of undenatured whey protein, and wherein said composition is extruded on a thermoplastic extruder and forced through an exit die.

Claim 110 (canceled)

Claim 111 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 109 wherein the edible polysaccharide is a member selected from the group consisting of starches, cellulose, dietary fibers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 112 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 111 wherein the edible polysaccharide is a starch selected from the group consisting of corn, potato, rice, tapioca, bran, and soy starches, modified variants thereof, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 113 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 112 wherein the edible polysaccharide is cornstarch.

Claim 114 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 111 wherein the edible polysaccharide is a cellulose selected from the group consisting of celluloses, modified celluloses, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 115 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 109 wherein the edible polysaccharide is a dietary fiber selected from the group consisting of maltodextrin, inulin, fructo-oligosaccharides, pectin, guar gum, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 116 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 109 wherein the composition further comprises a calcium salt.

Claim 117 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 116 wherein the calcium salt is a member selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcium chloride, calcium gluconate, calcium lactate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 118 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 117 wherein the calcium salt is calcium chloride.

Claim 119 (original): The textured whey protein product of claim 109 wherein the composition further comprises a pH- adjusting agent.